

United States Government

Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Operations Office

memorandum

DATE: December 1, 1997

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: SE-33:Arendale

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO SECRETARIAL INITIATIVE ON THE EXPLOSION AT THE HANFORD FACILITY REGARDING CHEMICAL SAFETY**

TO: Peter N. Brush, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Health, EH-1/FORS
Alvin L. Alm, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, EM-1/FORS
Victor H. Reis, Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs, DP-1/FORS
Martha A. Krebs, Director, Office of Energy Research, ER-1/FORS
Terry R. Lash, Director, Office of Nuclear Energy, NE-1/FORS

In a memorandum dated August 4, 1997, the Secretary of Energy requested the DOE field offices to reassess known vulnerabilities (chemical and radiological) at facilities that have been shut down, are in standby, are being deactivated, or have otherwise changed their conventional mode of operation in the last several years, and report status to their Program Secretarial Officers and the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Health within 120 days. The attached reports from our operating contractors provide information regarding the status of known vulnerabilities. Overall, substantial progress has been made in reducing or eliminating our known vulnerabilities; however, work remains to be done. We will be conducting a site visit to each of the facilities to perform a validation assessment of the contractor responses to the initiatives outlined in the Secretary's memorandum. Two of the visits will be conducted this year with the remainder of the facilities to be visited in early 1998. Also, the results of the Type B accident investigation of a drum explosion at Paducah will be included in the end-of-year report to the Secretary.

Most of the reports also include preliminary information on the hazards associated with chemical and radioactive waste storage tanks and ancillary piping and equipment as was requested by the Secretary's October 21, 1997, memorandum. A more detailed evaluation will be provided in the end-of-year progress report to the Secretary.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Olberding at (423) 576-2550 or Mike Arendale at (423) 576-9918.

James C. Hall
Manager

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Lockheed Martin Energy Research Corporation (LMER)
- Attachment 2: Y-12 Plant, Lockheed Martin Energy Systems Corporation (LMES)
- Attachment 3: East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), LMES
- Attachment 4: Portsmouth, LMES
- Attachment 5: Paducah, LMES
- Attachment 6: Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (TJNAF), Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA)
- Attachment 7: Oak Ridge Water Treatment Plant, East Tennessee Mechanical Contractors (ETMC)/Johnson Controls World Services, Inc.
- Attachment 8: Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)
- Attachment 9: Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project (WSSRAP), MK Ferguson

cc w/o attachments:

E. G. Cumesty, ER-10
R. R. Nelson, EW-90
J. W. Parks, EF-20
R. D. Dempsey, DP-80
R. W. Poe, SE-30
Robert I. Van Hook, LMES, Bldg. 9704-2, MS 8001
Alvin W. Trivelpiece, LMER, Bldg. 4500-N, MS 6255
Mark Deathridge, ETMC
James R. Powers, MK-Ferguson
James E. Drewry, ORISE
Dennis W. Barnes, SURA

bcc:

DOE

Brenda Holder, EH-24
Greg Bazzell, EF-22
Jerry Conley, ER-13
Kathy Coutros, EW-94
Brian DeMonia, EW-92
Randy DeVault, EF-20
Peter Gross, SE-32
N. Karne, SE-33/ETTP
Dan Kearney, CE-51
Morris Lemmings, SE-31
Martin McBride, SE-33
Robert McBroom, SE-32
Suzanne Riddle, EW-92
Jerry Robertson, DP-813
Bill Seay, EW-96
Russ Vranicar, EF-21

Contractors

Todd R. Butz, Y-12, Bldg. 9704-2, MS 8013
Chuck Moseley, Y-12, Bldg. 9119, MS 8235
Edwena Crowe, ETTP, Bldg. 1200, MS 7262
Rodney Kingrea, ETTP, Bldg. 0303-8, MS 7314
Bill Simon, ETTP, Bldg. 1001, MS 7134
Rob McKeehan, ORNL, Bldg.4500-N, MS 6244
Tom Wantland, ORISE
Tom McWilliams, ETMC
Dan Hoffman, WSSRAP, MK-F
Carter Ficklen, TJNAF, SURA
Len Stenzel, PORTS, Bldg. X301-2, MS 7700
Lori Ridgeway, PAD, KEVIL